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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

TOPIC Restricted Zone Near DEBLIN

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EVALUATION

25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 8 September 1949

REFERENCES

PAGES 3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

25X1 1. Restricted Zone at DEBLIN

No information is available on a restricted zone near DEBLIN.

2. Fortifications in Poland

a. It has been known since the fall of 1946 that field fortifications reinforced with concrete bunkers were constructed along the Oder-Neisse line and the middle course of the Oder River. Most of the pertinent information referred to the areas south of STETTIN and east of FRANKFURT/Oder. The last report on the subject was in January 1949 which stated that the fortification work in the so-called STETTIN bridge-head was continued even during the winter. It can be assumed that the field fortifications along the Oder-Neisse line have since been improved.

b. A report of July 1949 states that the entire peninsula of Hela has been declared a fortified area and has been placed off limits to all civilian traffic. The construction of ferro-concrete bunkers was observed.

3. Supply Depot at KRAKOW

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a. [redacted] a large ordnance and ammunition depot of the Polish militia was located in the KRAKOW Koszinski Fort. Infantry weapons and ammunition sufficient for the 10,000 militia men of the KRAKOW district were stored in one section of the depot.

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b. Fifty thousand infantry rifles of German origin and newly manufactured duplicates, 400 machine guns of German model "42", 1,500 German pistols and 30 German antitank guns of 88 mm caliber were also stored in the depot. Large quantities of ammunition for these weapons were stocked in another depot section.

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25X1

Date: 22 MAY 1978

c. A shipment of 18 railroad carloads of Soviet rapid-fire rifles arrived in September 1948. More incoming shipments of Soviet weapons were observed up to December 1948. Infantry weapons, at a rate of two or three truckloads per week, arrived from December 1948 to May 1949 (end of the period of observation). No outgoing shipments were observed.

4. Former German Airfields, Now Occupied by the Soviet Air Force

It is assumed from available information that the following former German airfields are now occupied by Soviet Air Force units:

a. KOENIGSBERG/NEUMARK

Presumably occupied by a Soviet fighter unit up to 28 July 1949.

b. FRANKFURT/Oder

Occupied by a Soviet air unit since early March 1949, according to information of 26 March 1949. The airfield was being reconditioned.

c. POZNAN

Occupied by Soviet Air Force units, according to information of February 1949. Soviet single-engine and twin-engine aircraft were observed over the town.

d. BUZLAU

Occupied by 15 to 20 Soviet aircraft, according to information of December 1948.

e. LIEGWITZ

Occupied by Soviet single-engine and twin-engine aircraft (presumably of types "IL-2" or "IL-10" and "P-2"), according to information of 24 May 1949.

f. SCHNEIDWITZ

No recent information available. The airfield was occupied by Soviet fighters and ground-attack aircraft (of types "IL-5" and "IL-2") in April 1948.

g. BRISLAU-SCHONENBURG

Occupied by Soviet fighters and twin-engine aircraft, according to information of 20 May 1949.

h. BRIEG

Occupied by a Soviet Air Force regiment, according to information of 30 April 1949.

i. GROSS-STEIN

Occupied by a Soviet Air Force unit, according to information of mid-May 1949.

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3

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j. Data on the number of Soviet aircraft stationed at the individual airfields are not available.

25X1 Comment:

a. Differing articles on the reorganization of the Polish Army were published in the press in recent months. According to "Stockholms Tidningen" of 17 May 1949, the strength of the Polish Army was allegedly cut to 20,000 as a result of reductions in the individual units while, at the same time, the strength of the Communist police forces, such as the Corps for Security in the Interior ("KB") and the Polish Militia ("MO") are said to have been greatly increased. This information as well as other press reports, according to which the Polish Army was considerably increased in number, are not believed at the present time. Information [redacted] indicated that the units of the Polish Army are below their authorized strength. However, a reduction of the army to only 20,000 troops (as reported by "Stockholms Tidningen") would virtually mean the dissolution of the army.

b. The present strength of the Polish Army is still estimated at 140,000. The reported reorganization of the army is believed to be aimed at the consolidation of the Communist ideology within the army. To attain this end, all non-Communist elements (particularly in the officer corps) are being purged, a new, young officer corps from the peasant and working classes is being formed, and the Communist indoctrination of the entire army is being intensified. Similar measures are under way in all areas of the Satellite Countries.

c. Regarding the standardization of the Polish material with that of the Soviet Union, it can be stated that the Polish Army is almost exclusively equipped with weapons of Soviet origin (mostly used weapons which the Soviets left in Poland after the war). No large-scale deliveries of Soviet material to Poland were observed during the last years.

d. It is believed that all information on a thorough reorganization of the Polish Army and particularly press reports on this subject must be viewed with a certain reserve.

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